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WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS  
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**  
**OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR  
1965



# WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1965 – 1966

## WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

A. C. LESTER, ESQ., Hithercroft Farm, Wallingford.

DR. O. C. WILKINSON (*Vice-Chairman*), Bezants, Winterbrook, Wallingford.

## WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

J. WILSON, ESQ., 6 Church Street, Wantage, Berks.

I. EVERSON, ESQ., Orchard Bank, East Hanney, Wantage, Berks.

## WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

J. H. GALLO, ESQ., 31 The Croft, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Berks.

CAPT. C. W. MAYNE, Broomsticks, West Hagbourne, Didcot, Berks.

MRS. M. SCOTT, The White House, Mackney, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford.

## WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

W. J. MARTIN, ESQ., 4 Station Cottages, Challow Station, Nr. Faringdon, Berks.

G. CORRIE-MILLS, ESQ., Beedon Hill, Beedon, Nr. Newbury, Berks.

E. C. GOLBY, ESQ., Cheap Street, Compton, Nr. Newbury, Berks.

## BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

J. L. SALE, ESQ., C.I.E., Priors Hold, Wantage, Berks.

DR. A. G. WALTER (*Chairman*), Middle Wharf, Thames Street, Wallingford.

## CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

R. R. WRIGHT, Municipal Offices, Wallingford.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health*

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*Secretary*

MRS. E. L. FUDGE

Municipal Offices, Wallingford.

Telephone 2561.

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

*Senior Public Health Inspector*

E. N. SINCLAIR, M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E.

*Additional Public Health Inspector*

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS  
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to present my Annual Report for the year 1965. Contained within this report is the information required by the Ministry of Health as indicated in it's Circular 1/66.

During the twelve months under review, the estimated combined population rose to 52,510, an increase of 2,070 (4.1%) over the figure for 1964. As there were 630 more births than deaths during the year 30.4% of the increase was due to this factor, leaving 69.6% accountable to movement into the District. Wallingford Rural District had the largest increase (5.2%) and Wantage Rural District the smallest (3.0%). Percentage increases in each of the four districts due to (a) excess of births over deaths and (b) immigration were as follows: Wallingford Borough (a) 0.2% (b) 3.0%; Wantage Urban District (a) 1.4% (b) 3.2%; Wallingford Rural District (a) 1.4% (b) 3.8%; Wantage Rural District (a) 1.3% (b) 1.7%. With the exception of Wallingford Borough, the districts showed roughly the same increases due to the first of these two factors, as would be expected. The very low figure in the Borough is once again to be accounted for by the relatively high percentage of old people living there in residential accommodation for the aged. The second factor was relatively much greater in Wallingford Rural District than in Wantage Rural District while Wallingford Borough and Wantage Urban District were roughly the same. These figures are again what would be expected, indicating as they do that the three towns, especially Didcot, are growing more rapidly by immigration than the surrounding villages.

The number of live births in 1965 was 1,183, which was only 33 (2.9%) more than in 1964. Wallingford Borough had the lowest corrected birth rate (18.2 per 1,000 population) and Wallingford Rural District the highest (25.7 per 1,000 population). The provisional national rate was 18.0 per 1,000 population, and represented an actual reduction in the total number of live births compared with 1964. This is the first year since 1955 that such a fall has occurred. Family planning is now necessarily a part of our way of life. The Family Planning Clinic at Wantage hospital

continues its much needed services but, however efficiently it may be run, a single clinic cannot adequately serve a largely rural community. The opening of a second clinic at Didcot was therefore greatly welcomed. With a very active Committee assisted by the Family Planning Association and members of the staff of the Oxford Family Planning Clinic, this new clinic quickly became operational and held its first session in January 1966 in the annexe of Didcot hospital, which was generously placed at its disposal. Grants are being made towards its running expenses by the Wallingford Rural District Council and the Berkshire County Council. Sessions are now held from 7 to 8 p.m. on the first and third Thursday each month, except August. At the Wantage Clinic, sessions are from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. on the first Wednesday and from 6.30 to 8 p.m. on the third Thursday each month. Attendance at both clinics is open to all on payment of a small fee, which can be waived in needy cases.

The number of stillbirths fell to 9 in 1965. This is the lowest number since 1951 when it was 8, but this was out of a total of only 734 births. The stillbirth rate for the year (7.6 per 1,000 total births) was, in fact, the lowest recorded in the Combined Districts and was less than half the provisional rate for England and Wales (15.7 per 1,000 total births). The infant mortality rate (13.5 per 1,000 live births) was also the lowest recorded in the Combined Districts and considerably lower than the provisional national rate of 19.0 per 1,000 live births, which was itself the lowest rate ever recorded in this country. These two figures indicate a high standard of medical services within the District. Of the 16 infant deaths during the year, 11 were under 1 week old, 1 was between 1 and 4 weeks' old and 4 were over 4 weeks' old.

Three of the infant deaths were illegitimate babies. These were out of a total of 54 illegitimate births during the year, which gives an infant mortality rate for illegitimate births of 55.6 per 1,000 live births. This is a high figure, as might be expected, but it has little significance as it refers to so small a number. Illegitimate live births during the year were 4.6% of the total live births in the Combined Districts.

The crude death rate for the Combined Districts for 1965 fell slightly from the 1964 figure of 10.8 per 1,000 population to 10.5 per 1,000 population. This figure cannot be directly compared with the rate for England and Wales as it is not possible to make the necessary adjustments for age and sex distribution. This adjustment is made for each District separately by multiplying the crude death rate by a comparability factor, which is produced by the Registrar General, to give the corrected death rate per 1,000 population. No comparability factor is received for the Combined Districts. The corrected death rates for the four Districts were



considerably below the provisional death rate for England and Wales (11.5 per 1,000 population). The high crude death rate in Wallingford Borough was due to the relatively greater proportion of residential and hospital accommodation for old people within the Borough, which is taken into account by the Registrar General in producing his comparability factor.

Of the 553 deaths, 298 (53.9%) were due to diseases of the heart and circulation. Coronary disease and angina were responsible for 120 of these 298 deaths. The cause of coronary disease is still obscure but it seems very probable that it is related to dietary factors, such as consumption of hard fats and refined carbohydrates, and also to smoking. The relationship of lung cancer to smoking is even more certain and there were 31 deaths from this cause in 1965, nine more than in 1964 and 5.6% of the total deaths from all causes. If I were still a smoker I would think very carefully before lighting my next cigarette after reading these figures.

The health of the community, generally speaking, was good although the total of notifiable diseases was very high compared with last year. Out of the total of 866, 768 were cases of measles and 74 were cases of dysentery. This was the highest incidence of measles since 1957 and the highest number of cases of dysentery since separate records for the District began in 1949.

Although measles is usually a fairly mild illness in childhood it can be very unpleasant for the patient and worrying to parents, while complications of a serious nature are by no means uncommon. A safe and effective vaccine has now been developed but at present it is generally being used selectively for those children who, in the opinion of their family doctors, particularly need to be protected from the disease or its complications. The main argument against more general use is that the period of protection is not established and it would seem unwise merely to postpone an attack of measles, in a child who is healthy enough to overcome it without any danger, to a later age, at which the severity of the illness is known to be much greater.

Of the 74 cases of Sonnei dysentery, 70 were in the Wallingford Rural District. Nearly all of these occurred in an outbreak in Didcot during June and July. It first came to light in the Manor Infant School during investigations following the report of unusual numbers of cases of diarrhoea affecting both children and staff. So far as the school was concerned, the outbreak was reasonably quickly contained. The staff were most co-operative and worked very hard to make the control measures effective—always a difficult task with young children. A routine of hand washing after every visit to the toilet and before eating, followed by dipping the hands in disinfectant (benzalkonium chloride), together with thorough

disinfecting of all W.C.s, handles, doors, taps, etc., at least twice each day was adopted. As was to be expected, however, cases soon appeared outside the school and the outbreak ran the usual troublesome course, causing a good deal of extra work for the family doctors, health visitors, school nurses, etc. Sonnei dysentery is a relatively mild form of the disease which is endemic in this country. It can however be very unpleasant, especially in the very young or very old. Undoubtedly there is a good deal more about than is ever identified as it is often indistinguishable clinically from other diarrhoeal illness such as "Berkshire Belly" or "The Bug". The mode of spread of some forms is not clear, but in general such illnesses are the result of poor personal hygiene and their persistence is a sad reflection upon human weakness, which makes it seem too much trouble to wash the hands after using the W.C., the danger of which omission must, by now, be perfectly well understood by all who can read.

There were two cases of paratyphoid fever. They were related to the outbreak caused by infected milk in the Blackpool area during the summer. The two cases were a man and his wife who had been on holiday in Blackpool and they were discovered when a routine examination of stool specimens was made, following a notification that the hotel at which they had stayed had been supplied with the infected milk. By then the man's symptoms were completely better (his wife had had no symptoms at all). Adequate attention to personal hygiene in this case ensured that there were no further cases.

No cases of whooping cough were notified during the year. A very satisfactory restoration of the notification rate to a more normal one after the high incidence in 1964 (30 cases). The high incidence of respiratory tuberculosis noted in 1964 was also halted, only 11 cases being notified in 1965. None of these was in the Wantage Urban District which had such a high figure last year.

During the year routine tests on unpasteurised bottled milk sold from a farm just outside the District disclosed the presence of human tubercle bacilli, the source of the infection being traced to one of the farm workers. As some of the milk might have been drunk at home by children in the neighbouring villages, Heaf tests were carried out in the appropriate schools. Those done at the one school concerned within the District were all negative. This incident illustrates the unnecessary risk which accompanies the consumption of untreated milk.

The single case of food poisoning notified was a salmonella brandenburg infection in a housewife. As is usual in isolated cases, no source could be identified and satisfactory hygiene in the home prevented further cases in the household.



During the year the Ministry of Health decided to allow stocks of corned beef, withdrawn from sale following the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak, to be reprocessed according to a strict code of practise which would make them safe for human consumption. A large consignment of 6 lb. cans of this meat was received at a food factory in Didcot. Very strict precautions were taken after its arrival but it seemed that a quite unnecessary risk was being taken in allowing these cans, some of which were badly damaged and leaking, so that they had to be suitably disposed of, to be sent without previous inspection and sorting to a canning factory in a full normal production. A strong letter of protest was sent by the Council to the Ministry and no further reprocessing was undertaken at the factory.

The tables on immunisation have again been slightly altered so that direct comparison is difficult. There seems, however, to have been a slight overall increase in the number of diphtheria and tetanus immunisations, largely because more boosting injections were given at school entry, while there was a slight reduction in the number of injections for whooping cough. A new scheme for offering booster doses for diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis immunisation to all school entrants was started at the beginning of 1966. It remains to be seen how this will be taken advantage of. Primary smallpox vaccinations were slightly lower than in 1964. In infants under 5 years the figure was almost the same (650 compared with 652 in 1964) while in other age groups there were 14 less (24 compared with 38 in 1964). Re-vaccinations were also less. Poliomyelitis immunisation showed a good improvement although direct comparison is again not possible. Vaccination against tuberculosis (B.C.G.) on the other hand, showed a slight fall but this was because no vaccinations were done at the Didcot Girls' Grammar School. The girls who were not done there in 1965 are to be offered vaccination in 1966.

The problem of finding tip sites for refuse, now that the tips at Pearith Gravel Pits (the Wallingford Rural District Council tip at Didcot, which is also used by Wallingford Borough and Wantage Rural District) and Chain Hill in Wantage are reaching the end of their life, led to joint discussions being held by the four districts to decide upon future policy for refuse disposal. In order to conserve space it would seem prudent to adopt some method of reducing the bulk of the refuse but equipment for this work is expensive to buy or rent and to run, so that sharing the cost by operating joint disposal schemes has much to recommend it. The different methods of treating refuse have been investigated and the one which seems most likely to be acceptable to the four authorities is the Seerdrum wet pulverisation method which, while rejecting resistant material such as rubber, leather and plastics, reduces the remaining refuse to an inoffensive end product which can be used

as a top cover for the rejected material. The saving in space is in the region of 50% and the tip is considerably more hygienic, the breeding of flies and rats being discouraged. This process is less costly than other methods of pulverisation and incineration. It seems probable that Wallingford Borough and Wallingford Rural District will operate one joint scheme and Wantage Urban and Rural Districts another.

Towards the end of the year, the County Council opened a pilot clinic at Wantage Hospital for taking cervical smears, a means of detecting early cancer of the cervix uteri of women. The clinic is open to all women, although it is primarily for married women who have had children, in whom the disease is very much more common. Sessions are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month from 2 to 4 p.m. Attendances have been very high and booking arrangements are necessary. Although taking the smears is a very simple and rapid procedure, their examination takes time and requires skilled technicians. This, at present, is a greatly limiting factor.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the help and co-operation I have unfailingly received during the year from all my colleagues and to express my thanks to the members of the Joint Public Health Committee and the four district Public Health Committees.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. HOWELL.

May 1966.



## POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-Year Population		Difference
		1964	1965	
Wallingford Borough	760	5,300	5,470	+ 170 (3.2%)
Wantage Urban	2,797	6,970	7,290	+ 320 (4.6%)
Wallingford Rural	21,790	19,880	20,910	+ 1,030 (5.2%)
Wantage Rural	74,181	18,290	18,840	+ 550 (3.0%)
Combined Districts	99,528	50,440	52,510	+ 2,070 (4.1%)

## LIVE BIRTHS

District	No. of live births in 1965			Birth rate per 1,000 population		Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	1964	1965	1964	1965
Wallingford Borough	47	59	106	24.9	19.4	23.4	18.2
Wantage Urban	87	80	167	19.8	22.9	20.6	22.4
Wallingford Rural	265	251	516	23.2	24.7	24.1	25.7
Wantage Rural	196	198	394	22.8	20.9	22.1	20.3
Combined Districts	595	588	1,183	22.8	22.5		
England and Wales*						18.4	18.0

## STILL BIRTHS

District	No. of stillbirths		Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	1964	1965	1964	1965
Wallingford Borough	1	0		
Wantage Urban	4	3		
Wallingford Rural	6	4		
Wantage Rural	5	2		
Combined Districts	16	9	13.9	7.6
England and Wales*			16.3	15.7



## ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

District	Number of illegitimate births per annum					
	1938	1945	1962	1963	1964	1965
Wallingford Borough	3	5	4	3	5	5
Wantage Urban	3	17	8	5	3	7
Wallingford Rural	11	26	19	28	23	25
Wantage Rural	7	30	17	17	15	17
Combined Districts	24	78	48	53	46	54

## TOTAL DEATHS

District	No. of Deaths 1965			Crude death rate per 1,000 population		Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	1964	1965	1964	1965
Wallingford Borough	38	56	94	18.9	17.2	10.0	9.1
Wantage Urban	26	47	73	9.8	10.0	7.5	8.5
Wallingford Rural	105	127	232	11.6	11.1	10.0	9.1
Wantage Rural	88	66	154	8.1	8.1	9.6	9.7
Combined Districts	257	296	553	10.8	10.5	.	.
England and Wales*						11.3	11.5

## INFANT MORTALITY

District	No. of infant deaths under 12 months of age		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	
	1964	1965	1964	1965
Wallingford Borough	0	0		
Wantage Urban	2	0		
Wallingford Rural	13	9		
Wantage Rural	8	7		
Combined Districts	23	16	20.0	13.5
England and Wales*			20.0	19.0

\* Figures for England and Wales for 1965 are provisional.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Wfd. Boro	Wantage U.D.	Wfd. R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1965	Total 1964
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	70	3	74	10
Encephalitis (Acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (Including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	2	2	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	1	—
Malaria B.T.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	198	78	244	248	768	86
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary)	—	—	—	—	—	4
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	1	—	2	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	4	5	13
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	—	7	3	11	25
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	—	—	1	2	3	5
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	30
Total	200	80	324	262	866	176

# CAUSES OF DEATH

	Wallingford Borough		Wantage U.D.		Wallingford R.D.		Wantage R.D.		Combined Districts	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	1965	1964
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	1	—	1	2	4	1	1	2	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	2	3	—	8	2	11	2	13	22
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5	—	1	—	1	—	4	4	13
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	4	5	4	4	14	10	8	18	47
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Diabetes	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	12	14	2	11	11	19	3	12	15	76
Coronary disease, angina	8	3	4	18	31	18	29	9	38	110



Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	3	—	1	1	5
Other heart disease	2	5	7	2	1	3	14	32	46	8	8	76
Other circulatory disease	2	—	2	—	1	1	4	4	8	4	2	21
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	6	7	1	—	1	7	7	14	4	6	29
Bronchitis	2	1	3	2	—	2	1	2	3	4	1	15
Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	3	1	—	4
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	1	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	9	12	2	6	8	12	8	20	6	3	61
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4	1	1	2	—	1	1	3	2	12
All other accidents	—	2	2	1	1	2	—	5	5	2	—	16
Suicide	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	4	—	1	3
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	38	56	94	26	47	73	105	127	232	88	66	553
												546

**DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION  
(TRIPLE ANTIGEN) 1965**

District	Under 1 year	1- year	2- years	3- years	4-15 years	Total
Wallingford Borough						
Primary Course	47	36	24	15	10	132
Booster	—	35	51	15	42	143
Wallingford Rural						
Primary Course	165	56	16	27	10	274
Booster	—	48	73	20	17	158
Wantage Urban						
Primary Course	46	19	12	2	—	79
Booster	—	29	28	24	13	94
Wantage Rural						
Primary Course	139	46	21	10	2	218
Booster	—	58	35	9	—	102
Combined Districts	397	327	260	122	94	1200

**DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION 1965**

District	Under 1 year	1- year	2- years	3- years	4-15 years	Total
Wallingford Borough						
Primary Course	—	—	2	—	—	2
Booster	—	4	14	13	58	89
Wallingford Rural						
Primary Course	—	—	—	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	1	8	79	88
Wantage Urban						
Primary Course	—	—	2	—	—	2
Booster	—	5	32	8	44	89
Wantage Rural						
Primary Course	—	—	—	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	1	—	60	61
Combined Districts	—	9	52	29	241	331

### SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1965

District	Under 1 year	1- year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Wallingford Borough						
Primary	—	66	13	6	—	85
Re-Vacc.	—	—	6	5	6	17
Wallingford Rural						
Primary	—	191	59	—	6	256
Re-Vacc.	—	—	—	24	21	45
Wantage Urban						
Primary	3	41	14	—	6	64
Re-Vacc.	—	—	—	6	24	30
Wantage Rural						
Primary	8	209	46	6	—	269
Re-Vacc.	—	—	6	11	28	45
Combined Districts	11	507	144	58	91	811

### POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

District	Primary Courses 3 Oral Doses	2 Salk Injections	Re-inforcing Doses or Injections 4th Oral (or 2 Orals following 2 Salk)	3rd or 4th Injection of Salk
Wallingford Borough				
Born 1962-1965	136	18	5	—
Born prior to 1962	14	—	242	1
Wallingford Rural				
Born 1962-1965	462	30	54	8
Born prior to 1962	39	—	240	51
Wantage Urban				
Born 1962-1965	131	4	—	—
Born prior to 1962	5	—	82	19
Wantage Rural				
Born 1962-1965	319	3	24	1
Born prior to 1962	35	—	130	24
Combined Districts	1141	55	777	104



# B.C.G. VACCINATION

School	Number positive at 1st skin test			Number vaccinated			Number of conversions		
	1963	1964	1965	1963	1964	1965	1963	1964	1965
Wallingford Grammar	6	7	6	40	37	43	36	34	40
Blackstone County Sec.	10	13	10	100	68	78	79	57	62
King Alfred's Grammar	8	6	1	52	37	29	48	34	27
Icknield County Sec.	5	2	9	117	68	43	104	57	41
Didcot Girls' Grammar	10	17	—	46	41	—	40	41	—
St. Birinus County Sec.	8	8	10	81	68	75	55	67	67
St. Frideswide's Cnty. Sec.	12	12	8	69	76	54	58	71	51
Cranford House P.N.E.U.	3	4	—	16	11	21	15	11	18
Segsbury	—	5	10	—	39	57	—	35	49
The Downs	15	10	9	62	49	73	50	32	64
Total	77	84	63	583	494	473	485	439	419

## CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Address and when held</b>
Blewbury	Parish Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.30 p.m.
Brightwell	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 3.0—4.0 p.m.
Chaddleworth	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 2.0—3.30 p.m.
Cholsey	The Laurence Hall; Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Compton	Village Hall; Third Wednesdays, 2.0—4.15 p.m.
East Challow	British Legion Premises; 2nd Monday, 2.30—4 p.m.
East Hanney	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
East Hendred	Parish Hall; Fourth Thursday, 3.0—4.30 p.m.
East Hagbourne	Village Hall; Fourth Tuesday, 3.0—4.30 p.m.
Harwell	Technical Institute; Second Thursday, 2.30—4.30 p.m.
Harwell — A.E.R.E.	Civil Defence Building; Curie Avenue; Second & Fourth Monday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Kingston Lisle and Childrey	Village Hall, Kingston Lisle; First Monday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Letcombe Regis	Village Hall; Fourth Tuesday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Lockinge & Ardington	Loyd Lindsay Village Hall, Ardington; Second Wednesday, 3.0—4.0 p.m.
Long Wittenham	Village Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Wallingford	Conservative Hall; First and Third Fridays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Wantage	Cottage Hospital; Every Friday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.

## **BOROUGH OF WALLINGFORD**

### **REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR WATER SUPPLY**

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies.

Eighty-three samples of chlorinated water in distribution were taken for bacteriological examination. All samples with the exception of two were found to be satisfactory. The two unsatisfactory samples appeared to be isolated cases as following samples proved to be satisfactory.

A number of premises in the Borough obtain their water from private boreholes. These are mainly situated in the Moreton Road area and six samples were taken of which three, all taken from one premises, were found to be unsatisfactory. Development mainly of an industrial nature is continuing to take place in this area and the lack of mains water supply, together with the use of septic tank type drainage may give rise to further unsatisfactory samples from these new premises.

The fluoride content of the water supplied from the Wallingford boreholes is 0.15 parts per million. The supply is supplemented by water from outside the Borough, the fluoride content of which is less than 0.10 parts per million.

### **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped for treatment to the Wallingford Rural District Council's disposal works at Cholsey and this arrangement has continued to work satisfactorily.

### **REFUSE COLLECTION**

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the Borough has been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year. Refuse collection is undertaken by three loaders and a driver with a 24 cu. yard compression type vehicle and as development continues in the Borough the pressure of work on this one collection team will soon reach a point when either additional labour or an additional vehicle will be required.

The Council has continued to use the Wallingford Rural District Council's tip for disposal, but the available tipping space is rapidly diminishing and discussions have taken place with neighbouring authorities with a view to finding alternative means of disposal. Various plants ranging from a Pulverisation type to full scale incineration have been investigated but a final decision has not yet been reached.



## RODENT CONTROL

Summary of work carried out:

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Dwelling houses	21	33
Business premises	20	23
Local authority premises	160	30
Agricultural premises	3	6
Sewers	—	—
	<hr/> 204 <hr/>	<hr/> 92 <hr/>

## MILK SAMPLES

During the year the dairy registered for the retail sale of milk ceased to operate.

Eight licences were issued by the Berkshire County Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and were enforced during the year.

Fifty-eight samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all samples with the exception of three passed the appropriate tests. These three samples failed the keeping quality test which was attributable to milk being kept in a warm temperature. The premises concerned now keep all milk for sale under refrigeration.

## ICE CREAM

Fifteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. All registered premises have been inspected during the year and all owners or occupiers of the premises notified of any contraventions. The general standard of these premises was found to be satisfactory. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough.

In addition to sampling from registered premises samples were also obtained from catering establishments using their equipment, to establish the efficiency of sterilisation of scoops and similar equipment. In most cases it was found to be satisfactory and where it was not, advice was given and further samples proved satisfactory.

Several companies operate vans selling ice cream within the Borough and in general the standard of hygiene was found to be satisfactory. It was extremely difficult to obtain samples from these vans due to the varying times of operation, but those which were obtained were found to be satisfactory.

Thirty-six samples of ice cream and eighteen samples of fruit lollies were taken for bacteriological examination with the following results: -

### ICE CREAM

- 29 placed in Provisional Grade I.
- 5 placed in Provisional Grade II.
- 2 placed in Provisional Grade III.

## FRUIT LOLLIES

15 found to be satisfactory, three unsatisfactory.

Where unsatisfactory samples were obtained immediate re-sampling took place and, with the exception of one case, were found to be satisfactory.

## FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Type of Business	No. of premises	Compliance with Reg. 16	No. where Reg. 19 applies	Compliance with Reg. 19
Butchers	9	9	9	9
Grocers	11	11	6	6
Fried Fish shops	2	2	2	2
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	5	5	—	—
Cafes	8	8	8	8
Hotels	1	1	1	1
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Confectioners	9	9	—	—
Public Houses	13	13	13	13
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1

All food premises have been inspected and the owners or occupiers notified of any contraventions under the Food Hygiene Regulations. With the exception of two premises the standard of hygiene was reasonably satisfactory.

One of the unsatisfactory premises is now closed and the other is being rebuilt to a high standard of finish.

All food premises in the Borough have been inspected at regular intervals during the year and the general standard was found to be satisfactory. This also included school kitchens, hospitals and old people's homes. A total of 180 visits were made to these premises during the year.

## FOOD HYGIENE LECTURES

During the year two food hygiene lectures were given but a very poor attendance was recorded although all food premises were notified in advance. There would appear to be a general apathy on the part of persons employed in food businesses in respect of food hygiene in general. This would seem to be linked with an ignorance of the dangers of poor hygiene practice.

## DOGS IN FOOD SHOPS

During the year notices were printed requesting persons not to take dogs into food shops. These were distributed to all food shops and with the exception of two premises they have been displayed. The reaction of shopkeepers was favourable and there is a growing awareness on the part of the general public that dogs are not to be taken into these premises.



## SUMMARY OF DEFECTS FOUND UPON INSPECTION OF PREMISES

	<i>No. of premises</i>
1. Defects in structure (including fittings and redecorations) ... ..	4
2. Unsatisfactory refuse containers ... ..	6
3. Lack of protection of food ... ..	3

## PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Sale of ice cream ... ..	15
(b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled and preserved food ... ..	8

## METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the local authority with their refuse.

## BAKE HOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the Borough. Both were inspected and their condition was satisfactory.

## HOUSES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Twenty-eight old people's flats were erected by the Borough Council during the year.

Ninety-four houses were erected by private enterprises.

Eight houses were represented as unfit for human habitation. A survey was carried out to establish the number of houses which are unfit or are likely to become so in the next ten years and it was ascertained that there are a total of 112 houses in these two categories.

The 35 urgent cases should be dealt with within the next three years and of the remaining number it is thought that the majority will be reconditioned and provided with improved facilities to extend their life for some considerable time. There would not appear to be any considerable slum clearance problem in Wallingford.

The Council operate a small camping and caravan site at their Riverside Park for holiday purposes only, the maximum stay permitted being fourteen days.

## BATHING PLACE

The Borough Council own and maintain an open air swimming pool and paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge.



The recirculation and purification plant has continued to function satisfactorily. In addition to this a new plant has been installed to serve the paddling pool and it has proved highly successful.

Seventeen samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from the swimming pool and plant during the season. Thirteen samples were taken from school swimming pools and all but one were found to be satisfactory.

## FOOD INSPECTION

The following quantities of unsound food were examined and voluntarily surrendered: -

Tinned Products: 299 tins — the majority of these tins were surrendered because they were badly damaged and whereas previously a large quantity of these would have been sold at reduced prices, it was suggested that this should not be done in future and shopkeepers have co-operated by surrendering them.

Tinned Meat: 199 lbs. — In nearly all cases this has been confined to large tins of ham, tongue and pressed meats which have been insufficiently processed and the tins have consequently blown.

Frozen Food: 1,287 pkts. — the large numbers surrendered have been due to breakdowns in refrigeration plants.

Cream Cheese: 9½ lbs. — this was the result of a complaint received that it was associated with food poisoning but although it was surrendered there was no bacteriological evidence to associate the cheese with this complaint.

Fresh Meat: 123 lbs.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

During the year two prosecutions were taken against persons selling, in one case, sausage rolls and, in the other, a meat pie containing mould. Fines were imposed in both cases.

In the case of the sausage rolls an improved system of coding has now been introduced.

With regard to the mouldy meat pie, it was found upon investigation that a number of manufacturers deliver this type of product on a Monday which in fact has been baked on a Friday. Consequent to this fact being brought to light, shopkeepers have been made aware of it and in most cases deliveries are now refused on a Monday, so that fresh supplies can be delivered on a Tuesday.

Most shops now use their own coding systems on perishable goods as the manufacturers coding is not made known to them. Since the introduction of this system no further complaints have been received.

## MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering is carried out at one slaughterhouse in the Borough and the condition of the premises has been completely satisfactory.

The following table gives details of carcasses and offal inspected:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	292	6	40	1,834	780
Number inspected	292	6	40	1,834	780
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	7	17
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	46	2	9	337	108
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticercosis	17.1	33.3	22.5	18.3	16.0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	13
Percentage of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	2.2
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

### PART ONE OF THE ACT

#### 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	55	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	56	56	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found: 2.

No artificial lighting or water supply: 1.

Sanitary conveniences insufficient: 1.



## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

All the premises in the Borough to which the Act applies are registered and following inspections the owners or occupiers have been notified of contraventions.

### A. REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	5	31	31
Retail shops	3	79	79
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	3	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	9	9
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
Totals	8	122	122

### B. NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES.

All premises to which the Act applies have received a general inspection together with subsequent inspections to give advice and ascertain whether requirements have been carried out.

Ninety-five per cent of premises now comply with the requirements of the Act, including the washing and sanitary accommodation requirements, whilst the remaining five per cent have the work in hand.

Of the 122 premises registered the following summarises the main defects found: -

Section 6 — a. Thermometers: 100.

b. Insufficient or unsatisfactory heating: 12.

Section 7 — Unsatisfactory ventilation: 14.

Section 8 — Lack of or unsatisfactory lighting: 59.

Section 9 — Lack of or unsatisfactory W.C.: 26.

Section 10 — Lack of washing facilities or hot water: 45.

Section 11 — Drinking water (unsatisfactory facilities): 28.

Sections 13 & 14 — Lack of or unsatisfactory seating in shops: 15.

Section 15 — Lack of or unsatisfactory eating facilities: 6.

Section 16 — Defective floors, stairs, including lack of handrails:

63.

Sections 17, 18 & 19 — Unguarded machinery: 15.

Section 24 — Number of premises without First Aid equipment:  
101.

It has not been found necessary to institute proceedings and the general reaction to the Act has been satisfactory, the majority of owners and employers accepting responsibility and carrying out the necessary works quickly and without question.

February 1966.

## WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

### REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

#### WATER SUPPLIES

The supply of water for domestic and trade purposes has proved adequate notwithstanding the increased demand due to new development.

Extensions to the water mains have taken place at Charlton Heights to meet the needs of residential development and new mains have been laid in the Belmont Area to augment the supply.

The fluoride content of the mains water supply is 0.1 parts per million.

#### SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The construction of sewers during the year has again been confined to the provision of foul and surface water sewers to serve residential development.

The scheme for the construction of a new trunk sewer and extensions to Bradfield Farm Sewage Disposal Works is meeting with little or no progress and it is now becoming an urgent matter that this work is proceeded with at the earliest opportunity.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse from all premises in the district has been maintained.

The tip at 'S' Hill will provide tipping space for no more than a year. It is hoped to proceed jointly with the Wantage Rural District Council in obtaining a refuse disposal tip near Childrey but until negotiations for this tip are completed temporary tipping space will have to be found elsewhere.

#### RODENT CONTROL

Surveys of 95 properties have been carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, 32 of which were as a result of notification of infestation. A further 292 premises were inspected for rodent infestation during inspections for other purposes.

Twelve minor infestations of mice were found, and seven minor infestations of the common rat were found.



## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Haven Vale Caravan Site, Grove Street, is licensed under the Caravan Sites Control and Development Act 1960 as a site for 27 dwellings. The site is inspected from time to time to ensure that satisfactory conditions of hygiene and sanitation exist. Following the recommendations of the Fire Prevention Officer the conditions attached to the site licence have been revised to improve the fire precautions.

## PRIVATE NURSING HOMES

There are no private nursing homes in the area.

## CEMETERY

Land purchased and developed for burial purposes to the south of the existing cemetery has been brought into use. The existing cemetery has been closed for burials and the responsibility for maintenance has been taken over by the Urban District Council.

## HOUSING

	1963	1964	1965
Number of permanent houses erected	114	136	92
Number of permanent houses erected by local authority	6	29	10
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise	108	107	82
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—	—
Number of families on housing list	251	256	314
Number of houses represented as unfit			11
Number of Closing Orders made			7
Number of Demolition Orders made			4
Number of applications made for Improvement Grants (Standard)			5
Number of applications made for Improvement Grants (Discretionary)			—

Sixty-eight Houses remain on the list of houses which are considered to be unfit for human habitation. It is anticipated that these will be dealt with and the inhabitants rehoused by the end of 1967.

Improvements and modernisations have been carried out to an estate of 36 pre-war houses and the Council hope to complete the improvements to the remainder of the pre-war houses within a three year period. The number of applications received for improvements to private houses is very disappointing and only 5 applications for standard improvement grants have been received during the year.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Number of persons dealt with under Section 47: Nil.

Number of persons dealt with under Section 50: Nil.

## SWIMMING BATHS

The Urban District Council own and maintain one open air swimming pool. No filtration or purification plant is installed, the pool being emptied, cleansed and refilled weekly from the public mains. Swimming pools are installed at three schools in the district. Samples of water obtained from these pools have proved satisfactory.

## DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

No disinfection of premises has been required during the year.

## LICENSED PREMISES

There are 26 licensed premises in the district as follows: -

Hotels and Public Houses	18
Off Licenses	7
Licensed Restaurant	1

One Hotel that had been closed for alternations and improvements opened again early in December.

## FOOD AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 62 Food Premises in the district as follows: -

Butchers	...	...	...	6
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	1
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	2
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	17
Greengrocers	...	...	...	3
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	2
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	5
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	18
Restaurants	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream Depot	...	...	...	1
Preserves Factory	...	...	...	1

Forty-two premises have been visited with a total of 56 visits. The standard of hygiene and cleanliness was satisfactory.

- (1) Number of premises — 62
- (2) Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 — 51
- (3) Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies — 30
- (4) Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19 — 22



## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Forty-four premises have been inspected under this Act, comprising 40 retail shops, 2 catering premises and 2 offices. Twenty-nine retail shops and two catering premises did not comply with all the requirements of this Act and informal action was taken. On re-inspection it was found that 14 premises had complied with our requirements.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

The following items were found, on inspection at premises other than slaughterhouses, to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered: -

### CANNED FOODS

1 Tin Pressed Ham	4 lbs.
1 Tin Jellied Veal	4 lbs.
1 Tin Lambs' Livers	10 lbs.
1 Tin Pigs' Livers	15 lbs.
2 Tins Pigs' Livers	25 lbs.
2 Tins Pigs' Livers	25 lbs.
1 Tin Chopped Pork	4 lbs.
1 Tin Jellied Veal	4 lbs.
2 Tins Pressed Ham	8 lbs.
1 Tin Pressed Ham	4 lbs.

### FRESH FOOD

3 Turkeys	35 lbs.
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## ICE CREAM

Twenty-five premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Fifty samples of ice cream and seventeen samples of ice lollies were obtained for bacteriological examination, with the following results: -

### ICE LOLLIES

- 2 samples — probable number of B. Coli (Type 1) per 100 ml.: 18
- 1 sample — probable number of B. Coli (Type 1) per 100 ml.: 16
- 14 samples — probable number of B. Coli (Type 1) per 100 ml.: nil



## ICE CREAM

26 samples placed Prov. Grade 1.

16 samples placed Prov. Grade 2.

7 samples placed Prov. Grade 3.

1 sample placed Prov. Grade 4.

## MILK SUPPLIES

No samples of milk have been taken for Brucella Abortus examination.

There are two retailers of milk in the district each of whom holds a licence to sell Pasteurised and Untreated milk. There are also five shops in the district from which milk is sold in prepacked containers. These were inspected during 1965.

# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING 1965

<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Number of premises or sites visited</i>	<i>Total number of visits</i>
Refuse Tip	1	25
Sewage Disposal	3	38
Swimming Baths	4	23
Licensed Premises	15	19
Food Shops	42	56
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	65	86
Ice Cream Premises	27	34
Unsound food	5	8
Moveable dwellings	1	23
Milk Shops	5	8
Improvement Grants	39	49
Rodent Control	95	453
General Housing Inspections	134	193
Drainage	136	151
Total number of different premises inspected		602
Total number of visits made		1196
Total number of complaints received		111
Number of defects or nuisances discovered		38
Number of nuisances abated		23
Number of Notices served:	Formal	Nil
	Informal	38

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	19	13	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	24	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	10	—	—
Total	48	47	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — Nil.

June 1966.



# WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply in the Wallingford Rural District was satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year under review.

Chemical and bacteriological samples were collected from the area, the numbers from each point being tabulated.

Note: (i) It is becoming increasingly difficult to identify individual sources with a particular area, but the works given are mainly concerned with the supply to the Wallingford Rural District.

(ii) The Upton source was formerly known as the War Department, Hagbourne, works.

<i>Works</i>	<i>Raw Waters</i>	<i>Final Waters</i>
Aston Tirrold	23	25
Cholsey	26	24
South Moreton	23	21
Upton	10	25
West Hagbourne	36	16

#### *Storage*

Aston Tirrold Reservoir	2
Hagbourne Reservoir	2
Milton Reservoir and Tower	7
Tap and Distribution System	9

In all, therefore, 249 samples were examined. Of the 118 raw waters, 17 showed slight contamination by organisms of the coliform group, while of the 131 final and distributed water samples, five fell a little below the highest standard of bacterial purity.

The water is not known to be plumbo solvent and no tests for lead were carried out during the year.

There were no unusual cases of contamination during 1965.

The natural flouride content of these sources varies from 0.2 p.p.m. (Upton), 0.1 p.p.m. (Aston Tirrold) to less than 0.1 p.p.m. (Cholsey, S. Moreton and West Hagbourne).

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Main drainage is available in every parish of the Rural District except Moulsoford where a fairly large part of the village drains to a small sewage treatment works provided primarily for the Council's housing estate; the method of treatment is sedimentation followed by filtration with disposal of the final effluent by absorption into the chalk land. There has been no demand for main drainage in the other part of the village.

Didcot has had full benefit of main drainage with sewage disposal works since the beginning of the century. A major extension to the sewage works is being planned to deal with a dry weather flow of 1,200,000 gallons per day; the system of treatment will probably be by the activated sludge process with heated sludge digestion. The Council is also dealing piecemeal with the replacement or duplication of older trunk sewers as they become overloaded or otherwise unsuitable for carrying the increased flow occasioned by the development of the town.

The only places in Didcot not sewered comprise a small number of houses in Abingdon Road and a few outlying places.

The villages of East Hagbourne and West Hagbourne are sewered with the exception of a few isolated places; the sewage is treated at the Didcot works.

Cholsey (including Fairmile Hospital) and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell together with the Borough of Wallingford drain to the Council's Cholsey sewage disposal works, which are designed for a dry weather flow of 600,000 gallons per day. The works comprise comminution of solids, followed by settling tanks, biological filters, humus tanks with final discharge of effluent into a watercourse connecting with the river Thames; the effluent can be run over grassed areas as and when required prior to final discharge into the watercourse. Provision is made in the treatment process for the recirculation of humus tank effluent. Sludge is treated in a heated sludge digestion unit followed by drying on open drying beds. Automation and instrumentation together with a fully equipped laboratory have been provided to give full control of the treatment processes.

A scheme has been prepared to sewer the area around Manor Farm, Cholsey, and thus only leave outlying places in the parish unserved.

In the Parish of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell a few properties in the Rush Court—Shillingford Bridge area and some outlying places have not been provided with main drainage.

Two modern small sewage disposal works comprising the comminution of solid matter, sedimentation, biological filtration, humus tanks and the irrigation of effluent over grassed land prior to final discharge to a watercourse, complete with sludge drying beds, have been built at South Moreton and Long Wittenham.



The works at South Moreton serve the villages of Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, North Moreton and South Moreton. Only outlying places in these parishes do not benefit from main drainage.

The works at Long Wittenham serve the villages of Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham and again only the outlying properties in these parishes do not benefit by main drainage.

## PUMPING STATIONS

All sewage has to be pumped to disposal works and in some places two or three stages of pumping are required. All the plant is modern and automatic in operation. In all, there are twenty-two sewage pumping stations outside the sewage disposal works.

## SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

A master plan for surface water drainage in the Didcot area has been prepared, which is being carried out piecemeal as occasion demands.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

### STAFF

1 Foreman and 11 men (one man employed full time on tip control).

### EQUIPMENT

- 1 — 35 cubic yard Karrier (diesel).
- 1 — 25 cubic yard S & D (diesel).
- 1 — 25 cubic yard Karrier (diesel).
- 1 Bristol Duplex Tractor (Tip Control).

### COLLECTION

Kerkside collection once per week. A charge of £1 per annum is made for additional service where refuse is collected from the back door.

### DISPOSAL

By controlled tipping at Pearith Gravel Pits, Long Wittenham, where tipping facilities are also provided for Wallingford Borough Council and the Wantage Rural District Council. The Council has been advised that the tipping facilities at Pearith are likely to come to an end within the next 5 year period, and a conference has been held between the neighbouring authorities in this area to consider the feasibility of a joint scheme for refuse disposal in the future. As a result of the conference it appears that there is a case for co-operation between the Wallingford R.D.C. and the Wallingford Borough Council in such a scheme, with the possibility of Wantage R.D.C. and Wantage U.D.C. joining the venture, dependent on cost. The present position is that the Wallingford R.D.C. and the Wallingford Borough Council are to investigate



the cost of introducing a scheme of refuse disposal in the Didcot area using the Seerdrum method of wet pulverisation and the Wantage R.D.C., and Wantage U.D.C. are to cost a scheme for dry pulverisation at Childrey. The costs of the two schemes will be compared before any final decision is made, in the meantime the Wantage R.D.C. and the Wallingford Borough Council have been given consent to continue tipping at Pearith until the 31st March, 1967.

TRADE REFUSE

The Council charges for the collection of trade refuse at the rate of 6d. per bin equivalent. A charge of 5/- per load is levied for the disposal of trade refuse at the tip.

SALVAGE

Salvage operations are confined to the recovery of rags, woollens, non-ferrous metals, cast iron and steel. 75% of the salvage receipts are paid monthly to the refuse collection staff as a bonus. The remaining 25% is credited to the General Rate Fund.

STREET CLEANSING

The Council employs a pensioner for five half-days per week clearing litter from the Didcot shopping areas. This covers Broadway, Wantage Road, Park Road, Station Road, Ridgeway Road Abbott Road, Didcot.

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1965

		<i>Visits</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Local Authority Premises	...	291	21
Dwelling Houses	... ..	2225	154
Business Premises	... ..	316	49
Agricultural Properties	...	143	53
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	2975	277
		<hr/>	<hr/>

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. The particulars are as follows:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>
The Cholsey Abattoir, Ilges Lane, Cholsey	The Cholsey Meat Supply Co. Ltd., Ilges Lane, Cholsey.
The Slaughterhouse, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.	Messrs. H. Andrews & Sons, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.

The Cholsey Abattoir has not been in use during 1965. Details of meat inspection carried out during the year are shown in the following table.

MEAT INSPECTION — 1965							
	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Lambs
January	—	8	5	2	40	—	17
February	—	6	5	1	51	4	5
March	—	2	14	1	63	11	15
April	—	6	4	2	43	8	14
May	—	7	6	2	31	—	21
June	—	4	10	—	43	—	33
July	—	1	10	2	41	—	28
August	—	3	9	1	42	—	29
September	—	3	12	4	57	5	20
October	—	2	10	2	52	20	—
November	—	6	8	4	56	36	—
December	—	2	8	4	76	13	—
Total	—	50	101	25	595	97	182

<i>Tuberculosis</i>							
Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/							
Organs	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Percent	—	—	—	—	0.16	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis Bovis</i>							
Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/							
Organs	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Percent	—	0.66	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Diseases other than C. Bovis &amp; Tuberculosis</i>							
Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/							
Organs	—	23	1	64	—	7	
Percent	—	15.23	4.00	10.75	—	3.84	

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED AS UNFIT

Meat	119 lbs.
Offal	400 lbs.
	<hr/>
	519 lbs.
	<hr/>

## FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

### MILK

All milk retailed in this district is designated. Eighteen samples of milk were taken during the year, all of which satisfied the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Sixteen of these samples were taken from schools.

There were three complaints during the year concerning the use of dirty milk bottles. A letter of warning was sent to the dairy concerned, and the problem of eliminating dirty bottles from the filling line was taken up directly with the Dairy Manager.

### ICE CREAM

There are two cafes in the district registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. There are also 62 premises registered for the sale and storage of ice cream.

Three samples of ice cream were taken during the year, all of which were reported as satisfactory (Grade I).

### GENERAL

The following complaints concerning food offered for sale were dealt with during the year: -

- (1) *Complaint about ham rolls purchased at a private club.*  
Complaint not substantiated.
- (2) *Complaint about nail in packet of tea.*  
Taken up with manufacturer. No further action.
- (3) *Complaint about foreign matter in loaf of bread.*  
Analyst's report — jute fibres and wheat starch. No further action.
- (4) *Complaint about piece of glass in Hovis loaf.*  
Letter of warning to baker concerned.
- (5) *Complaint about mould on fruit and jelly cakes.*  
Letter to retailer on question of stock rotation.
- (6) *Complaint about can of boned chicken.*  
Letters of warning to retailer and manufacturer.
- (7) *Complaint about smell from cornish pasty.*  
Complaint not substantiated.
- (8) *Complaint about mouldy bread.*  
Taken up with manufacturer and retailer. No further action.
- (9) *Complaint about mouldy pies.*  
Letters of warning to manufacturer and retailer.
- (10) *Complaint about bread infested with flour moth.*  
Letter of warning to manufacturer.



# VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

## CANNED FOOD

	<i>lbs.</i>
1936 cans fruit and vegetables	9054
195 cans meat	437
17 cans fish	50
20 cans milk	30

## OTHER FOOD

Frozen fruit	1040
Fresh meat	64
Dried fruit	35244
1 jar mustard pickle	2
	<hr/>
Total weight	45921
	<hr/>

# STATISTICS — FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

## FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

		Fitted to comply with Section 16	To which Section 19 applies	Fitted to comply with Section 19
Grocers	39	39	39	39
Confectioners	16	16	—	—
Hotels	6	6	6	6
Public Houses	25	25	25	25
Food Factories and Warehouses	10	10	10	10
Butchers	15	15	15	15
Greengrocers	5	5	—	—
Bakeries	3	3	3	3
Fish Shops, Fried and Wet	3	3	3	3
Cafes	4	4	4	4

## PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of Ice Cream	2
Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	62
Fish Frying	2
Sausage Making	8
Bakehouses	3

## NOTICES SERVED DURING 1965

	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
General Defects	5	2
Drainage	4	1
Defective dustbins	6	2
Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act	32	—
Food Hygiene Regulations	4	—

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

One complaint was received during the year concerning oil smuts from oil fired boiler at Samor Pure Foods Ltd., Didcot. Observations were taken to substantiate the complaint, and this was taken up with the factory concerned. Adjustments were made to the boiler firing equipment, which is now operating satisfactorily.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No person was buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the above Act during 1965.

## SWIMMING BATHS

Swimming baths are situated in the district as follows: -

Edmonds Park, Didcot (Public).

Didcot Girls' Grammar School (Private).

Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Nr. Wallingford (Public).

Cranford House School, Moulsoford (Private).

The following samples of swimming-bath water were taken during 1965: -

Date	Place	Plate Count	Report	
			Coliform Bacilli	B.Coli (type I)
17.5.65	Shillingford Bridge Hotel	145 per mil.	10 per 100 ml.	2 per 100 ml.
11.7.65	Edmonds Park, Didcot	2 per mil.	0	0
11.7.65	Didcot Girls' Grammar School	Less than 1 per mil.	0	0
8.7.65	Shillingford Bridge Hotel	18 per ml.	1 per 100 ml.	0

## HOUSING

During 1965 one house was represented as unfit for human habitation.

The following building programme was completed by the Council in the early part of 1965: -

EAST HAGBOURNE — 6 bungalows and 32 cottage flats.

The following building programme was commenced by the Council in 1965 and should be completed in 1966: -

20 Houses for sale — Mowbray Road, Didcot.

32 Cottage Flats — South Queensway Site, Didcot.

The following programmes are likely to be commenced in 1966: -

12 Cottage Flats — Long Wittenham.

2 Bungalows — Didcot.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing List at the present time is 603, which includes 338 householders and 80 caravan dwellers.

## GENERAL

Large numbers of private houses for sale have been built in the district, and consents for a further 311 in Didcot and 151 in Cholsey have been issued. This is apart from consents for individual private houses. Many of the applicants on the Council's Housing List are not in a position to purchase houses, and the number of houses available for letting does not appear to be sufficient to deal with the housing problems in a growing district. The number of casual vacancies arising in the Council's existing property, together with the number of new dwellings it is building to let, is hardly keeping pace with the problem.

## CARAVANS

The following licensed caravan sites are operated in the Council's district: -

SHILLINGFORD HILL CARAVAN SITE, NR. WALLINGFORD.

120 permanent sites. 40 holiday sites.

Standard — good.

BLAGRAVE FARM SITE, DIDCOT.

25 permanent sites — standard satisfactory.

THREE POPLARS SITE, LONG WITTENHAM.

32 permanent sites — not satisfactory.



Representations have been made to the operators for the provision of some street lighting, improvements to the surface of the car park, and a general tidying up of the site.

HAGBOURNE ROAD SITE, DIDCOT.

100 permanent sites. Electricity and street lighting now provided. Roads partly surfaced. Improvement work proceeding.

POST OFFICE SITE, CHOLSEY.

12 permanent sites. Satisfactory.

BARLEY MOW SITE, LONG WITTENHAM.

6 permanent sites. 40 holiday sites. Fire fighting arrangements not yet satisfactory.

NEW SITES TO BE OPENED.

It is understood that a site for 200 caravans is to be provided in the Central Ordnance Depot, Didcot, to provide accommodation for workers on the new Power Station. I am assured by the C.E.G.B. that this site will comply with model standards. One must assume that this site will be closed down when the new Power Station is completed.

# OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Of the 129 premises registered at the end of the year 60 (40%) have now received a general inspection. During the year under review inspections have been fitted in with the general work of the department and return visits made where necessary. It is anticipated that all registered premises will be inspected by the end of 1966.

TABLE A — REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	31	12
Retail shops	5	84	33
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	5	2
Catering establishments open to the public	—	6	—
Fuel storage depots	—	3	1
Totals	7	129	48

TABLE B — NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

70

TABLE C — ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

<i>Class of workplace</i>	<i>No. of persons employed</i>
Offices	168
Retail shops	397
Wholesale shops, warehouses	58
Catering establishments open to public	50
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	5
Total	<u>678</u>
Total Males	233
Total Females	445

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS UNDER SECTIONS

### SECTION 4 — CLEANLINESS

In general, there is little work necessary under this section.

### SECTION 5 — OVERCROWDING

The standard set by the Act has been easily met in most premises so far inspected. In one new office block a large machine room was found to be occupied by 20 operators and this was the permitted number. The management are taking note of this when they re-arrange the accounts section.

### SECTION 6 — TEMPERATURE

Many retail shops have difficulty in maintaining the minimum temperature laid down. This would appear to be due to the opening and closing of the entrance door by customers. In all cases additional means of heating have been offered. In shops where it is not possible to maintain an overall temperature by reason of the trade or commodity for sale, means for warming have been provided at a suitable place. It was notable that on first inspection few premises have a thermometer.

### SECTION 7 — VENTILATION

All premises have means for natural ventilation and many are now supplementing this by the introduction of hot or cold air blowers to increase circulation.

### SECTION 8 — LIGHTING

In general the standard of lighting in both shops and offices was adequate. It was particularly noticeable, however, that a higher intensity of light was prevalent in the sales areas of shops (in the region of 40–50 lumens/sq. ft.) than in preparation areas or office sections of those premises.

Three cases of inadequate lighting were found—all in retail shops. In two cases these were in the manager's small offices of multiple grocers. The third case was in a room used for boning meat. In all three the proprietors were asked to increase the illumination to 30 lumens.

### SECTION 9 — SANITARY CONVENIENCES

A number of premises were found where existing arrangements were unsatisfactory and advice was given on how sanitary accommodation can be brought up to the standard required under the Sanitary Conveniences Regulations, 1965.

### SECTION 10 — WASHING FACILITIES

Most premises have been found to have a wash-basin available, but several have not had an adequate supply of hot water. Heaters have been installed where required.



## SECTION 11 — SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER

All premises have been found satisfactory in this respect and each employee had a drinking vessel available. Those premises employing larger numbers of staff are now installing hot drink vending machines and an additional supply of disposable drinking cups has been required at such places in case water is required.

## SECTION 12 — ACCOMMODATION FOR CLOTHING

Invariably clothes pegs are provided for staff, but in a number of cases this was not satisfactory provision and lockers were provided.

## SECTIONS 13 AND 14 — SITTING FACILITIES

Adequate facilities were provided in all premises.

## SECTIONS 17 AND 18 — FENCING OF MACHINES

Following publication of advisory circulars great care was taken on the inspection of dangerous machinery and it would appear that although new machines are fitted with safety guards there is still risk of accidents. Gravity fed slicing machines are particularly dangerous and it is interesting to see that new transparent plastic and plastic coated wire guards are to be made available to eliminate this risk.

## ACCIDENTS

During the year under review, eight accidents were notified. A visit was made to each premises following an accident report and if it was an accident which could have been foreseen a full investigation carried out. In each case advice was given to the management.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	20	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	50	20	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):  
 Making, etc., of wearing apparel: 89.

March 1966.

# WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

## REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

#### MILK

All milk sold in the district was subject to the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations and licences issued by the Berkshire County Council in force during the year were as follows:

Pasteuriser	...	...	...	1
Dealers (pre-packed)	...	...	...	6

Of these dealers, 5 were selling pasteurised milk, 4 sterilised milk, 1 untreated milk and 1 ultra heat treated milk.

Messrs. Smith Bros. (Kingsgrove Farms) Ltd. sold a limited amount of untreated milk outside the district and two samples were taken for biological examination. The tests, which were both satisfactory, involved the use of guinea pigs and results were not obtained until six weeks after the date of sampling. This long delay is an unavoidable disadvantage but the tests are still valuable in ensuring that herds producing milk which is not to be subjected to heat treatment are free from tuberculous and brucella infections.

The designation 'Ultra heat treated' is one which was introduced by Regulations during 1965 and permits milk to be treated by raising its temperature to 270 degrees F for 1 second. It is claimed that this type of milk has the advantages of sterilised milk in terms of keeping quality without the disadvantages of abnormal flavour and loss of food value.

Twenty samples of school milk (pasteurised) were taken during the year as supplied by the following firms all of which are situated outside the Wantage Rural District.

Oxford Co-operative Society Ltd.	...	...	...	5
Swindon Co-operative Society Ltd.	...	...	...	2
Newbury Creameries Ltd.	...	...	...	1
H. A. Job Ltd.	...	...	...	5
County Dairies (Oxford) Ltd.	...	...	...	7

All these samples satisfied the methylene blue and phosphatase tests. The licenced H.T.S.T. plant at Grove was used by County Dairies (Oxford) Ltd. for special purposes and not for general milk supplies.

There were no complaints of dirty milk or bottles during the year.



## CREAM

During the year 6 samples of pasteurised double cream were taken from Elms Farm Dairy, Grove and in spite of the fact that 4 were taken during the summer months, when keeping quality can sometimes be suspect, all were reported as satisfying the methylene blue test and showing no growth on culture. It seemed that the earlier difficulties experienced with non-pathogenic spore bearing organisms (*Bacillus Cereus*) had been overcome possibly since the use of a multiplicity of churns had been largely superseded by milk tankers which were more readily supervised and sterilised. In fact churns were only used for special consignments of antibiotic-free milk which is essential for the production of yoghurt.

Frequent inspections of the cream and yoghurt production lines were made during the year and standards of hygiene were found to be good.

## FOOD PREMISES

The following food premises were in use during the year: -

Category	Food Hygiene Regulations			
	No. of premises	Complying with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applicable	Complying with Reg. 19
School meals kitchens (where main meals are prepared)	10	10	10	10
Staff Canteens (U.K.A.E.A. canteens and hostels, A.R.C. Canteen)	8	8	8	8
Cafes and tea rooms	8	8	8	8
Public Houses (some serving main meals but mostly snacks only)	54	53	54	54
Grocers (including village general stores)	51	43	44	44
Butchers	9	7	9	9
Greengrocers	3	3	—	—
Confectioners	7	7	—	—
Off Licences	2	1	—	—
Bakehouses	4	2	4	4
Totals	156	142	137	137

One hundred and thirty-five visits were made to the above premises during the year and standards of hygiene were found to be good in the majority of cases. In one or two instances verbal warnings were necessary concerning redecoration, protection of food and stock rotation. The dangers of overstocking frozen food cabinets and the benefits of refrigerated display cabinets, where perishable foods could be kept visible to the customer and yet remain at a cool even temperature, were stressed.

MOBILE TRADERS AND FRUIT STALLS

Mobile shops and other food carrying vehicles were inspected whenever the opportunity arose and in the main they were found to be hygienically operated, probably because everything, including the driver's cabin, is visible to the customer. However, control is not easy to maintain when traders, vehicles and rounds change so frequently and it is hoped that new regulations will shortly be issued to provide for much more efficient supervision.

Three fruit stalls were again in use during the respective seasons and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Fifty-two premises were registered for the storage and sale of prepacked ice cream but, due to the fact that sample results in the past had been consistently good and that other authorities were sampling this bulk produce on a routine basis, efforts were concentrated, jointly with the Wantage Urban District Council, on the Wantage Depot of Tonibell Ltd. The reason for this was that 20 or more vans operated daily from this depot each making its own soft ice cream from a previously pasteurised mix. It was thus possible for bacteriological quality to vary considerably from van to van although in fact all vans leaving the depot were in first class hygienic condition. Fifty-three samples of such soft ice cream were taken at various times during the year and the results were as follows:

Grade I	...	...	...	32
Grade II	...	...	...	13
Grade III	...	...	...	7
Grade IV	...	...	...	1

The vans giving Grade III and IV samples were carefully checked and resampled, the subsequent results being satisfactory.

Ten ice lolly samples were also taken, 8 of which were satisfactory. The remaining 2 samples showed evidence of slight contamination with coliform organisms but representations to the firm resulted in subsequent samples proving satisfactory.

One milk lolly was also taken as a sample and was reported Grade II.

## WATERCRESS

No watercress was produced in the district for sale to the general public during 1965 mainly due to the severe shortage of water in the beds.

## FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was voluntarily surrendered by food traders in exchange for condemnation certificates:

87 lbs. fresh meat at retail shops.

54 lbs. canned meats.

7 lbs. dried fruit.

Complaints from consumers were received as follows:

1. Metallic taint in 7 oz. tins of corned beef — stocks withdrawn by wholesalers.
2. Oil specks in loaf of bread — vegetable oil — no public health risk. Bakers requested to exercise more care.
3. Mould in sausage rolls — verbal warning to retailer. No formal action due to length of time between purchase and inspection.
4. Piece of muslin in fillet steak — probably introduced in slaughterhouse (imported meat). No formal action.
5. Mouldy cheese — stocks withdrawn.

## FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Seven faecal specimens were collected during the year for bacteriological examination in connection with instances of paratyphoid and other gastro-intestinal diseases.

## LIQUID EGG

There were no plants for the pasteurisation of liquid egg operating in the district.



## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

General inspections of all premises registered under the above act were completed during the year and the following is a summary of the second Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour.

Class of premises	No. registered during year	No. registered at end of year	General Inspections	Persons employed
Offices	—	11	7	50
Retail shops	11	47	29	127
Wholesale shops and warehouses	—	—	—	4
Catering establishments open to the public and canteens	1	7	6	28
Fuel storage depots	—	2	2	6
Totals	12	67	44	215

Male employees — 71. Female employees — 144.

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises — 126.

As was to be expected with a still relatively new Act such as this a large number of contraventions were discovered and these are summarised below:

Inadequate cleanliness	...	...	9
Overcrowding	...	...	1
Insufficient temperature	...	...	2
Lack of thermometer	...	...	31
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	1
Inadequate sanitary conveniences	...	...	5
Inadequate washing facilities	...	...	8
Inadequate clothing accommodation	..	...	1
Inadequately guarded machinery	...	...	1
Insufficient first aid equipment	...	...	18
Total			77

As in 1964 occupiers of premises were requested either verbally or by letter to attend to the contraventions and in the majority of cases requests were complied with immediately. It is expected that full compliance with the Act will be achieved during 1966.

In accordance with a request from the Ministry of Labour a survey was conducted during November into lighting standards in offices and shops. It was significant to note that illumination levels ranged from less than 5 lumens per square foot in certain village stores to nearly 100 lumens in a new shop in Grove. Obviously there is a need for considerable re-examination of the value of good lighting on the part of most employers and further attention will be given to this important public health factor as soon as the Minister has laid down minimum standards for each type of premises.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

No change took place during the year in slaughtering facilities in the district there being one slaughterhouse only in operation, namely at the Agricultural Research Council's Field Station at Compton. Regular visits continued to be made for purposes of meat inspection and a high standard was maintained at all times. The knackers yard at East Challow was used only infrequently and no public health problems were experienced.

### CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	35	83	89	221	561
Number inspected	35	83	89	221	561
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	1	19	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	9	—	12	123
Percentage of the number inspected found to be affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysti- cercosis	11.4	14.4	1.1	14.0	22.5
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.17
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat and offal condemned: 2,589 lbs.

Income from meat inspection charges: £44 13s. 0d.



The pig condemned as being affected with tuberculosis was subjected to bacteriological examination but the results were inconclusive. It is therefore possible that the infection was caused by an organism of the corynebacterium group. It is perhaps worthy of mention that the cow affected with cysticercus bovis (the cystic stage of the human tape worm—*taenia saginata*) must have grazed on pasture land contaminated in some way by human excreta thus indicating the care needed to prevent a rise in the incidence of this condition, which is difficult to detect in the slaughterhouse. Thorough cooking of all beef used for human consumption is of course the more obvious method of interrupting the life cycle of this particular parasite.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

6,197 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of at the Council's refuse tips at Farnborough, Hampstead Norris and Stanford during the year. Pearith gravel pits were also used on one day per week by arrangement with the Wallingford Rural District Council.

Decisions of major importance in relation to the collection and disposal of refuse were taken by the Council. In the first instance, a firm of consultants was called in to advise upon certain aspects of the service, the terms of reference being: -

- (a) To investigate the present arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse and recommend ways of increasing efficiency.
- (b) To advise the Council on the method to be adopted for the disposal of refuse in view of the present difficulties encountered regarding disposal sites.

Work on this survey was commenced in November and the report was promised for March or April, 1966.

By the end of the year preliminary discussions between officers of local authorities in North Berkshire were taking place with a view to forming a consortium to provide refuse disposal facilities. If successful, the results could have a profound influence on the pattern of refuse collection and disposal in the North Berks area.

The Council also decided to support the drive for the removal of litter and unwanted articles left in various parts of the countryside. This was accomplished by the employment of part of the Council's labour force outside normal working hours together with the necessary transport.

The removal of derelict car bodies also posed a problem during the year. An outside contractor was engaged on two or three occasions for this purpose but the Council felt that local rate-payers should not be expected to bear the cost of a service needed to deal with a situation affecting the country as a whole.



Labour difficulties interfered with the smooth running of the service throughout the year and some delays in collection were experienced especially around the Christmas period. The recruitment of labour was almost an impossible task and only for a few months in the early part of the year was the number of employees up to full strength.

#### EQUIPMENT

- 4 Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Freighters.
- 1 Dennis 10 Cubic Yard Side Loader.
- 1 Brayloader.
- 1 Fordson Major Tractor.
- 1 Calfdozer (to be sold as scrap).
- 1 Bedford 800 Van.

#### EMPLOYEES

- 1 Working Foreman/Fitter.
- 5 Driver/Loaders.
- 3 Loaders (1 short of full requirement).

#### SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING SERVICE

Little change in the operation of this service took place during the year, although the demand for higher effluent standards by the Thames Conservancy placed a greater burden on the vehicle and driver in desludging Council owned sewerage tanks. It was still possible however to undertake a good deal of private work for payment, much of it on a contract basis.

	<i>No. of tanks emptied</i>	<i>No. of loads</i>
Council: Main sewerage tanks	76	287
Small sewerage tanks serving		
Council estates	81	189
Septic tanks	34	71
Private tanks	527	971
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	718	1518
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Income from emptying private tanks, etc.: £1,142 2s. 9d.

Number of gallons of sewage pumped: 1,214,400.

Vehicle: 1 Shelvoke and Drewry 800 gallons (nominal) cesspool emptier.

Towards the end of the year two matters of importance were being considered by the Council:

1. The possibility of providing a partial free emptying service to ratepayers who were unable to connect to public sewers, and
2. The increasing difficulty in finding suitable disposal points for septic tank contents, which accounted for 8% decrease in the total amount of work carried out.

## WATER SUPPLY

In spite of a dramatic drop in the water table of the district all parishes continued to be supplied with an adequate quantity of mains water from the following boreholes:

Brightwalton; Church Down, Blewbury; Childrey Warren;  
West Hendred; Compton.

All supplies were chlorinated before distribution.

Forty-one samples of such mains water were taken on final distribution during the year and each was reported to be of high bacteriological quality. No samples of raw water were taken by the Public Health Department but a report from the Thames Valley Water Board indicates that each supply is of high quality. Chemical analyses made by the Board's chemist show that the water is moderately hard in character and typical of waters drawn from underground sources.

Apart from West Hendred which showed 0.3 p.p.m., fluoride existed in trace quantities only.

Thirty-nine samples of water from 14 different private supplies were also taken and of these 9 (including 4 estate supplies) gave satisfactory results; 2 gave improved results following cleansing operations and 1 fell into disuse after mains water had been laid on to the property. The remaining supply serving an isolated house suddenly became heavily polluted after giving a number of satisfactory samples. Further investigation revealed that during a period of low water level in the reservoir negative pressure in the supply pipe had permitted the influx of water from a little used cattle trough. The matter was quickly put right by disconnecting the trough and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

During the year 310 new services were laid but no major extensions were made by the Thames Valley Water Board.



Parish	Area in acres	Estimated population 31.12.65	Dwellings occupied 31.12.65		Total	Sewerage
			Private	Council		
Aldworth	1866	219	53	16	69	*
Ardington	2693	382	123	—	123	Yes
Beedon	2096	399	109	30	139	*
Blewbury	†4246	1350	406	63	469	Yes
Brightwalton	2054	288	92	15	107	*
Catmore	710	28	11	—	11	—
Chaddleworth	3400	433	113	45	158	Yes
						(part)
Challow, East	1657	884	175	89	264	Yes
Challow, West	1070	148	40	15	55	Yes
Childrey	2929	451	112	36	148	Yes
Chilton	1448	690	190	41	231	Yes
Compton	3803	1050	266	73	339	Yes
Denchworth	1041	195	52	10	62	*
Farnborough	1886	96	33	4	37	—
Fawley	2190	152	44	5	49	*
Goosey	968	136	35	10	45	*
Grove	†2513	3006	827	136	963	Yes
Hampstead Norris	4490	691	196	52	248	Yes
Hanney, East	2200	634	157	44	201	Yes
Hanney, West	1333	509	134	27	161	Yes
Harwell	†2503	2555	611	80	691	Yes
Hendred, East	3198	1259	346	91	437	Yes
Hendred, West	2002	317	76	28	104	*
Hermitage	1471	851	280	7	287	*
Ilsley, East	3017	447	99	40	139	Yes
Ilsley, West	3037	322	95	8	103	Yes
Letcombe Bassett	1631	189	46	15	61	*
Letcombe Regis	2155	497	133	41	174	Yes
Lockinge	3763	233	81	—	81	Yes
Peasemore	2049	189	59	12	71	*
Sparsholt	3329	290	72	29	101	*
Upton	1413	358	91	24	115	Yes
	74161	19248	5157	1086	6255	

† These figures include caravans and occupants.

\* Small disposal works in existence for Council houses only.

A small number of cottages, perhaps 1%, is still supplied by standpipes but accurate figures are not available. A further small number, as indicated above, is supplied by wells but these total less than 1% (excluding farm and estate supplies).



## SWIMMING POOLS

The four pools at Chilton, Compton, Childrey and Grove Primary Schools were again put to good use during the summer months and with greater experience on the part of the staffs in filter and chlorinator techniques no problems arose. Residual chlorine and pH readings were taken at each pool together with samples for bacteriological examination. All results were satisfactory.

## SEWERAGE

### (a) HERMITAGE

Owing to further development, the position in the village gradually deteriorated during the year. New bungalows in the Pond Lane and Chapel Lane area became occupied and immediately a serious nuisance was created due to the high water table and the consequent inadequacy of the soil and surface water drainage.

Unfortunately, little progress was made regarding the provision of a public sewer in the village owing to the uncertainty of future development. This would not be known until the findings of the Llewelyn-Davies Report were made public.

As stated in my last annual report, no satisfactory solution to this urgent public health problem will be found until main drainage is available.

### (b) COMPTON

During periods of heavy rainfall the sewers in this village became surcharged with storm water and work was commenced on the construction of a relief sewer, pumping station and extra storage tanks at the sewage disposal works.

The work was nearing completion by the end of the year.

### (c) DENCHWORTH

Drainage difficulties were experienced when six new houses were built and occupied in this village. The septic tanks failed to deal adequately with the sewage due to the high water table and statutory notices had to be served on the owners.

The matter was finally resolved by the Council allowing the owners to connect to its small disposal works serving Council houses nearby.

### (d) CHILTON

The sewage disposal works had been overloaded for some time and the Council had already accepted the Engineer's recommendation that the Harwell works be enlarged to take the sewage for treatment. This work was completed during the year together with the new pumping station and rising mains linking the two villages.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Of the four boarding kennels licensed during 1964 three continued to be used in 1965, one at Blewbury being discontinued. Each was inspected once and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

FARMS

Five visits to farms for purposes of inspecting sanitary accommodation were made and in four cases new facilities had been provided as requested.

RODENT CONTROL

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	188
Number of different domestic and business premises visited	...	...	...	1513
Total number of inspections made	...	...	...	2016
Number of different agricultural premises visited	...	...	...	76
Total number of inspections made	...	...	...	640
Number of different Local Authority premises visited	...	...	...	19
Total number of inspections made	...	...	...	159
Total number of premises found to be infested and treated	...	...	...	648
Number of agricultural contracts	...	...	...	37
Value	...	...	...	£797

CARAVANS

Permanent Sites: -

Charles Simpsons (Caravans) Ltd., Westfield Close and the Willows, Cane Lane, Grove (formerly Marshal's Caravan Service Ltd.) The Chiltern Caravan Co.,	...	...	...	90 Caravans
The Barrow, Harwell Mr. R. W. Pask,	...	...	...	35 Caravans
Ladycroft, Blewbury Mr. H. S. Clargo,	...	...	...	60 Caravans
Bidhu, Blewbury	...	...	...	1 Caravan



Following the change of ownership of the site at Grove work was put in hand on various improvements including the provision of new road surfaces, fencing, car parking spaces, street lighting and additional bathing and washing facilities.

Seven temporary site licences were in force at the beginning of the year and a further two licences were issued during the year, leaving a total at the end of the year of 9 sites, each with one caravan only.

Other caravans in the district were covered by the exemption clauses contained in the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, i.e. caravans used to supplement sleeping accommodation, building contractors and casual farm workers.

Problems associated with itinerant general dealers were resolved to a large extent early in the year when Grove airfield reverted to private ownership. Occasional caravans were stationed for short periods during the year on roadside verges in Grove and Goosey but only one family was still in the district at the end of the year.

One hundred and sixteen visits were made to caravan sites of all kinds and 13 unauthorised sites were cleared during the year.

## HOUSING

Two hundred and twenty-nine different dwellings were inspected during 1965 as follows:

(a)	as a result of complaints	...	...	...	...	36
(b)	as part of routine survey work	...	...	...	...	75
(c)	following applications for or enquiries relating to improvement grants	...	...	...	...	73
(d)	following applications for Council accommodation					45

and 335 visits in all were made to these properties.

Of properties inspected: -

61 were found to be fit;

82 were structurally sound but lacking in one or more of the necessary modern amenities;

and 86 were unfit to a greater or lesser extent.

Subsequent action again depended upon circumstances, the major problem being a shortage of Council accommodation for rehousing families living in unfit dwellings.

However the steady improvement in housing standards was maintained as shown by the following statistics: -

Grant applications approved: -

Discretionary—4 tenanted and 4 owner/occupied dwellings;

Standard—12 tenanted and 12 owner/occupied dwellings.

Properties actually modernised with grant aid: -

32 tenanted and 28 owner/occupied dwellings.



In almost every case repair works were carried out as a condition of grant approval thus obviating the need for action under sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 and the nuisance sections of the Public Health Acts. However it was necessary to serve 8 informal notices and one statutory notice and of these 3 had been complied with at the end of the year.

Surprisingly only 2 representations from tenants under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964 were received but in both cases preliminary improvement notices were served on the owner. It was thought that greater use would have been made of these provisions but tenants appeared to be somewhat reluctant to take steps which might lead to unpleasantness with landlords and having to pay higher rents. It may well be that greater publicity is warranted.

The scattered situation of dwellings capable of being modernised is such that Improvement Area action is largely impracticable.

Of the 82 unfit dwellings 13 were reported to the Council under section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 as follows:

Aldworth	...	...	...	1
Childrey	...	...	...	1
Grove	...	...	...	1
Hampstead Norris	...	...	...	4
Harwell	...	...	...	1
East Ilsley	...	...	...	2
Letcombe Regis	...	...	...	1
Sparsholt	...	...	...	2 (1 Challow Station)

The remainder were included in the list submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as requiring formal action during the ensuing five years. This list in fact totalled 165 dwellings but it is expected that quite a number will be reconditioned in the near future particularly if tenants can first be offered alternative accommodation.

As a result of the above formal action and similar action taken in the previous year: -

4 Demolition Orders were made;

3 Closing Orders were made;

7 formal undertakings were accepted;

11 properties were demolished in the parishes of: -

Chilton	3	Hampstead Norris	5
Harwell	1	West Hanney	1
Sparsholt	1		

and 5 properties were reconditioned following formal undertakings as follows:

Chilton	1 (part)	East Challow	1
East Hendred	1	Letcombe Regis	1
Letcombe Bassett	1		

Of course the figures given for grant work show that most reconditioning work was carried out without the need for formal action.

Selection of tenants was again an important part of the Department's work being so closely linked with the statutory duties outlined above. Fourteen new dwellings were completed at:

Hampstead Norris: 8 x 2BR flats, 4 x 1BR bungalows;

Beedon: 2 x 2BR bungalows;

and a total of 38 families were rehoused (new properties and casual vacancies). In addition 22 transfers were effected.

## SUMMARY OF THE REMAINDER OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

No. of complaints of all kinds received	...	...	...	143
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### DRAINAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES

No. of properties inspected	...	...	...	68
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Total number of inspections	...	...	...	120
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No. of nuisances abated (excluding work by cesspool emptier)	...	...	...	30
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No. of conservancy closets replaced by waterclostes (including improvement grant work)	...	...	...	49
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### OTHER NUISANCES

Animals	Inspections	...	...	22
	Nuisances abated	...	...	4

Accumulations of refuse	Inspections	...	...	21
	Nuisances abated	...	...	8

Filthy premises	Inspections	...	...	16
	Nuisances abated	...	...	3

Ditches and streams	Inspections	...	...	49
	Nuisances abated	...	...	6

Smoke	Inspections	...	...	2
	Nuisances abated	...	...	—

Noise	Inspections	...	...	3
	Nuisances abated	...	...	2

Total number of different premises inspected by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	731
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Total number of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	1,599
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These figures do not include the work of the Pest Officer, Rodent Operator or Cleansing staff which is dealt with under the respective headings.



# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

### PART ONE OF THE ACT

#### 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	6	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	10	—	—
Total	50	17	2	—

#### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences — 2 (Remedied):

referred by H. M. Inspector.

#### PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):

Making, etc., of wearing apparel: 1.

June 1966.



